



Born in a geopolitically sandwiched nation, South Korea, Seonjin Kim was always exposed to fast-paced changing international affairs around the Korean peninsula. In such circumstances, she developed profound interests in international relations gradually, which led her to pursue international studies at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Throughout her undergraduate, Kim strived to gain a comprehensive understanding of Asia through various experiences – private consulting, independent research, and public finance. For example, Kim worked as a research intern at Asia Defense Analysis Team in Aviation Week Network in D.C. in 2020. She explored the private sector of Asian security through the lens of air forces by conducting market research and writing analysis reports. Kim enjoyed her consulting internship truly and realized that her professional interests were not solely embedded in academia.

Yet, Kim did not completely drift away from her passion for academic research. While completing her internship, she also conducted independent research about the U.S. foreign policy in Asia. Kim approached the new framework of the U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on Taiwan and presented geopolitical, economic, and social analyses. Through this research, she enjoyed the excitement of self-directed learning extensively.

At the end of her internship and research in 2020, the pandemic broke out. That the global economy nearly collapsed led her to become intrigued in another aspect of international affairs – economics. Kim earned an apprenticeship related to public finance and trade at Comento in Seoul, South Korea. She explored the public financial sector by developing a portfolio of financial initiatives that would stimulate the Korean national exports in the era of the pandemic.

As a result, Kim is planning to concentrate on international economics and finance in Asia at SAIS. She has prepared herself for this new focus by enrolling in summer courses, including statistics and financial accounting. She has initiated to learn Japanese in addition to Spanish and Italian so as to facilitate her regional specialization. Upon graduation, she aims to work in the field of economic development and finance to boost the regional economic wellbeing.